

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02527 111217Z

43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 INR-10

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /174 W

----- 120869

P R 111145Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6850

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DAKAR 2527

AFDROUGHT, ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: ROSSO FERRY SITUATION

REF: DAKAR 2402

1. BRITISH EMBASSY DAKAR HAS JUST INFORMED FFPO THAT IN RESPONSE TO APPEALS FROM OSRO, BRITISH MIN.DEF. IS SENDING ITS MAIN RECONNAISSANCE TEAM (MILITARY) TO NOUAKCHOTT TO ASSESS SITUATION AND RECOMMEND MEASURES/ALTERNATIVES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF COMMODITY SHIPMENT. TEAM'S ARRIVAL IN NOUAKCHOTT STILL UNCERTAIN; HOWEVER, POSSIBLE THEY WILL BE THERE BY MAY FIFTEEN. COORDINATING OFFICER AT NOUAKCHOTT IS GARTH AP REES, UNDP RES. REP.

2. FFPO STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU ON GRIM REACTION TO SUGGESTED SOLUTION OF BAILEY OR OTHER PONTOON BRIDGE. LEADS CHECKED OUT HERE HAVE SO FAR LED NOWHERE. MONROVIA, EARLIER CONSIDERED MOST PROMISING, HAS REPLIED TO QUERY ABOUT AVAILABILITY PONTOON BRIDGE IN THE NEGATIVE.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF USING PODOR AND MATAM AS POINTS WHERE
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02527 111217Z

COMMODITIES COULD BE TRUCKED, PREPARATORY TO BE

FERRIED ACROSS THE RIVER. HAVE TAKEN THIS UP WITH SOCOPAO, BUT PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES ARE (A) CAPACITY/ CAPABILITY OF FERRY AT BOTH POINTS: (B) ABSENCE OF STORAGE ON MAURITANIAN SIDE: (C) LACK OF PRESENCE OF RECEIVING ORGANIZATION. FORWARDERS REGARD THIS ALTERNATIVE AS USELESS.

4. AT PRESENT TIME, AVERAGE DISPATCH APABILITY EX ST.LOUIS (BARGE) TO ROSSO IS 400 M.T./WEEKLY. THIS CAN BE INCREASED TO 600 M.T., GIVEN THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF RECEIVING ORGANIZATION IN EXPEDITIOUS CLEARANCE OF THE LANDING AT ROSSO. CONCURRENTLY, SOCOPAO STILL ABLE TO GET FOUR OR FIVE 20- TON TRUCKS ACROSS THE RIVER DAILY VIA THE SURVIVING, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY CRIPPLED, SMALL FERRY. IN OTHER WORDS, SORGHUM CAN BE MOVED TO ROSSO AT RATE OF ABOUT 3,500 M.T./MO.

5. ALL BUT THREE HUNDRED M.T. OF THE TEN THOUSAND M.T. FIRST TRANCHE FOR MAURITANIA HAVE BEEN DISPATCH ROSSO. DISPATCHES/DELIVERY THIS BALANCE WILL BE CONCLUDED WITHIN NEXT WEEK.

6. FIVE THOUSAND M.T. SORGHUM FOR MAURITANIA ARRIVING VIA YELLOWSTONE MAY 15 (ETA DAKAR). CONTACT WITH FORWARDER SHOULD BE SIGNED BY WEEK ENDING MAY 15. FFPO STILL HOPEFUL THAT ENTIRE CONSIGNMENT CAN BE TRANSPORTED TO ROSSO BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF RAINY SEASON.
AGGREY

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